

Friends of the Merrimack Public Library
November 27, 2023, 2023 meeting - 7:00 pm - FINAL VERSION

In attendance: Debbe Walter, Friends president; Claire Muise, Friends Vice President; Victoria Agnew, Friends treasurer; Pauline Ducharme, director at large; Jennifer Jobin, board member; Michelle Nover, Friends secretary; Yvette Courser, Director Merrimack Public Library.

Minutes

The minutes from the October 30, 2023 meeting were submitted for approval
Claire made a motion to accept the minutes
Victoria seconded the motion
Motion passed

Next Friends Meeting

Monday, January 29, 2024

Treasurer Report

The financials were presented - ending balance \$17,527.46

The NaNoWriMo mugs have arrived for the December 4th meeting - we will fill up and wrap.

The funds for the summer 2023 adult programming was not used, so \$263.45 will go back into balance.

The payment for the Erin Bowman presentation will come out of the Turkey Shoot line.

The Chuchul donation of \$800 will be used for two vacation week presentations:

February 29, 2024 - Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals - \$370.00

April 24, 2024 - Mad Science of Maine - \$518.00

Total: \$888.00

The Children's Department has agreed to cover the additional \$88.00

Michelle made a motion to fund the special programs

Pauline seconded the motion

Motion passed

Pauline made a motion to accept the current financials

Michelle seconded the motion

Motion passed

No new staff funding requests other than the vacation week events.

Director's report

- the Trustees have voted on the draft budget to submit to the Town of Merrimack - includes staff raises. Otherwise the budget is conservative.
- Elevator project - has been put on hold due to supply chain issues - we are waiting to hear back from the elevator company on the timing.
- The carpet was repaired in front of the elevator
- The Staff has been conducting ongoing collection maintenance - weeding out what hasn't been taken out in 10 years. They are moving the large reference materials to a more visible area of the library. The weeded out books will likely be recycled - due to their age, they will not be sold. Finally, the various sections are going to be evaluated as to their function - for example, how are the non-fiction books being used by patrons?

- Yvette went to the Town Council meeting with Board Chair Deb Covell - to keep the Town up to date on the very long list of library events and special projects. Interaction with the Town Council is very good right now.

Trustee Report

- Strategic planning is ongoing
- The community groups have already met - the focus groups are moving along.
- *Budget preparation - The budget includes a line for trustee funds that are used toward operating expenses. This is where anticipated funds that the trustees know they will receive and expend in that fiscal year are accounted for. The Friends quarterly donations are included in this line. Anticipated funds are listed in the budget but are in addition to and separate from the appropriated town money.*
- Trustees will purchase gift cards for the staff for holiday gifts. The library is closed only on Monday, December 25th.

Wreath Event

The annual event will end at 8:00 pm on November 30th. Bids are on Facebook only, as we had anticipated the elevator being worked on. This event does not get a lot of sharing on other forums. We discussed whether to continue with this event - it is a lot to ask of the staff to make the wreaths, even though they are keen to make them. We will revisit this next year.

No old business

New business

- N&A Book Distribution contacted us with a mailing regarding selling of books to benefit us in our various initiatives. Debbe contacted them with lots of questions, how is it done?; what is the profit %?; other NH libraries? Her email was completely ignored. We decided our book sales are very positive, well regarded and looked forward to. We will not pursue this - it seemed very sketchy.
- Claire proposed considering artists in our community to sell their work. We would like to bring in community members who would not normally come into the library. There are a lot of talented people in our community. Debbe mentioned the Nashua Arts Symposium.
- Library week in April - the Human Library is being planned. Details to come.
- Debbe wants us to find ways to bring school children into the library. Yvette wants people to realize "the library is a meeting place". She reported that more teens are coming into the library, eating the provided snacks and enjoying it as a safe place to go.
- NH Arts and Humanities Programs - Debbe sent around the website for us to peruse the offerings for future events. We discussed a few ideas. Debbe has asked the Friends to email her suggestions for events - she will take a look, tally the list and present ideas to us at the next meeting.

Michelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Victoria seconded the motion

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm